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TAGS: [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [AF](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: USAID REPRESENTATIVE IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF URGES  
SWEDES TO INTEGRATE CIVILIAN ADVISORS AND MILITARY MORE  
EFFECTIVELY

1. (SBU) On May 15-16, Deputy Economic Counselor accompanied  
USAID Field Program Officer (FPO) from Mazar-i-Sharif to  
meetings at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Defense, Swedish Military Intelligence and  
Security Directorate, and the Swedish International  
Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). FPO shared the  
following observations at the close of a two-year tour in  
Mazar-i-Sharif:

- The Swedish government should focus on integrating its  
civilian advisors with its military more effectively.
- The German-led Regional Command North headquarters in Mazar  
would benefit from a greater civilian presence (only two  
civilians at present).
- Swedish pre-deployment military training should include the  
civilian advisors with whom the Swedish military will work.
- Swedish troop deployments to Mazar should be longer than  
six months to improve results. (Sweden currently has 350  
troops covering four provinces in northern Afghanistan.)  
Swedish civilians stay in the PRT for a full year.
- The Swedish military could win more "hearts and minds" in  
the local population by having some type of Civilian Military  
Cooperation (CIMIC) funds at its disposal for small projects  
with an immediate and visible impact that do not interfere  
with long-term development.
- The Swedish PRT should begin to utilize Afghan expertise  
where possible.

2. (SBU) FPO also identified the following sectors where SIDA  
should focus Swedish aid efforts:

- Infrastructure
- Rule of Law
- Access to water and water usage
- Groundwater hydro-geological assessments.

3. (SBU) The Swedes said they appreciated these comments, but  
did not provide any substantive replies to these  
observations. Post will follow up to report Swedish  
responses septel.  
WOOD